## ABSTRACT
## THE CURRENT STATUS OF NEW WORLD ACRIDOLOGY(1)

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The locusts and grasshoppers, or Acrididae (Orthoptera), are among the most noxious of insects. We presently have a good understanding of the taxonomy of the Nearctic Fauna but know comparatively little about the insects'biology. Yet it is only through biological knowledge that there is promise of eventual control.

Our understanding of the Neotropical Fauna of Acrididae is far less complete than that of the Nearctic. Only a third or less of the species of the northern tier of South American Countries (Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, The Guianas, and Brazil) has been described. The fauna of the southern tier of countries (Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and parts of Bolivia) is better understood, but most of the research has been in the alpha, or descriptive, stage of systematics.

It follows that more acridological research is needed, particularly at the *beta*, or interpretive, level of systematics. This is true both for the Nearctic and for the Neotropical Regions. These two regions, though widely separated geographically and different floristically and faunistically, share many biomes, have numerous ecologically equivalent species, and present similar acridological problems. Any advances made in our knowledge of one will inevitably contribute to our understanding of the other.

The enormity of the task which confronts acridologists is, in part, a consequence of the large numbers of species with which they must deal and, in part, a result of the paucity of active workers.

The present number of acridologists is insufficient even to deal with important taxonomic problems, to say nothing of biological and economic ones. Hence, an increased exchange of information and an intensified program of cooperative research, especially on an organized basis, appear necessary if we are to gain the knowledge that is requisite to effective control.

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